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IN THE CLAIMS

Amended claims follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A handheld security system, comprising:
a Bluetooth-enabled control unit having a range of communications; and
a Bluetooth-enabled device, wherein the device is registered with the control unit such that the device cooperates with the control unit using Bluetooth communications to determine when the device is within the range of communications of the control unit, wherein when it is determined that the device is within the range of communications of the control unit, the device is functional, and when it is determined that the device is not within the range of communications of the control unit, the device is ~~substantially~~ at least partially non-functional;
wherein the device is configured to periodically send an identifying signal to the control unit and the control unit is configured to send a return signal to the device when the identifying signal is received by the control unit;
wherein when the device is at least partially non-functional, the device is configured to continue periodically sending the identifying signal to the control unit.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The handheld security system according to claim 21 wherein the device includes a lockout interface, wherein when the device does not receive the return signal in response to the identifying signal, the device is not within the range of communications of the control unit and the lockout interface locks out the device and causes the device to be ~~substantially~~ at least partially non-functional.
4. (Cancelled)

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5. (Currently Amended) The handheld security system according to claim 43 wherein when the device receives the return signal, the lockout interface unlocks the device and causes the device to be functional.

6. (Original) The handheld security system according to claim 1 wherein the device is exclusively registered with the control unit.

7. (Original) The handheld security system according to claim 1 wherein the control unit is configured to produce an alert when it is determined that the device is not within the range of communications of the control unit.

8. (Original) The handheld security system according to claim 7 wherein the control unit includes a display, the display being configured to display information associated with the device when it is determined that the device is not within the range of communications of the control unit.

9. (Original) The handheld security system according to claim 1 wherein the device includes a display, the display being configured to display information associated with the control unit when it is determined that the device is not within the range of communications of the control unit.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for executing a security protocol for a first Bluetooth-enabled device with respect to a second Bluetooth-enabled device, the method comprising:

periodically emitting a first Bluetooth transmission signal from the first Bluetooth-enabled device;

determining if a second Bluetooth transmission signal is received from the second Bluetooth-enabled device; and

locking out the first Bluetooth-enabled device to ~~substantially~~ at least partially prevent the first Bluetooth-enabled device from functioning if it is determined that the second Bluetooth transmission signal is not received, wherein

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the first Bluetooth-enabled device periodically emits the first Bluetooth transmission signal while being locked out.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 10 wherein locking out the first Bluetooth-enabled device includes:

displaying information on a screen of the first Bluetooth-enabled device which indicates that the first Bluetooth-enabled device is locked out.

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 10 further including:

operating the first Bluetooth-enabled device if it is determined that the second Bluetooth transmission signal is received.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for executing a security protocol with respect to at least a first Bluetooth-enabled device and a second Bluetooth-enabled device, the method comprising:

determining when a first Bluetooth transmission signal is received from the second Bluetooth-enabled device, wherein the second Bluetooth-enabled device automatically and periodically emits the first Bluetooth transmission signal;

emitting a second Bluetooth transmission signal when it is determined that the first Bluetooth transmission signal is received from the second Bluetooth-enabled device; and

generating an alarm to indicate that the second Bluetooth-enabled device is not within a communications range of the first Bluetooth-enabled device when it is determined that the first Bluetooth transmission signal is not received from the second Bluetooth-enabled device;

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wherein after the generation of the alarm, the second Bluetooth-enabled device is configured to continue periodically emitting the first Bluetooth transmission signal to the first Bluetooth-enabled device.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The method as recited in claim 16 wherein determining when the first Bluetooth transmission signal is received from the second Bluetooth-enabled device includes:

determining when the second Bluetooth-enabled device is registered with the first Bluetooth-enabled device, wherein emitting the second Bluetooth transmission signal when it is determined that the first Bluetooth transmission signal is received from the second Bluetooth-enabled device includes emitting the second Bluetooth transmission signal when it is determined that the second Bluetooth-enabled device is registered with the first Bluetooth-enabled device.

20. (Currently Amended) A first device comprising:

a Bluetooth-enabled mechanism;

computer code that causes the Bluetooth-enabled mechanism to periodically emit a first Bluetooth transmission signal;

computer code that causes the Bluetooth-enabled mechanism to receive a second Bluetooth transmission signal from a second Bluetooth-enabled device;

computer code for determining when the second Bluetooth transmission signal is received;

computer code for locking out the device to substantially at least partially prevent the device from being operational when it is determined that the second Bluetooth transmission signal is not received;

wherein the Bluetooth-enabled mechanism periodically emits the first Bluetooth transmission signal while the device is locked out;

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a processor for executing the computer codes; and
a computer-readable medium that stores the computer codes.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) The first device according to claim 20 further including:
a display screen, wherein the computer code for locking out the first device includes computer code for displaying information on the display screen to indicate that the first device is locked out when it is determined that the second Bluetooth transmission signal is not received.

25. (Original) The first device according to claim 20 wherein the Bluetooth-enabled mechanism is a Bluetooth-enabled radio.

26. (Currently Amended) A first device comprising:
a Bluetooth-enabled mechanism, the Bluetooth-enabled mechanism being configured to receive a first Bluetooth transmission signal from a second device that periodically emits the first Bluetooth transmission signal;

computer code for determining when a first Bluetooth transmission signal is received;

computer code for causing the Bluetooth-enabled mechanism to emit a second Bluetooth transmission signal when it is determined that the first Bluetooth transmission signal is received;

computer code for generating an alarm to indicate that the second device is not within a communications range of the first device when it is determined that the first Bluetooth transmission signal is not received;

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wherein after the generation of the alarm, the second device is configured to continue periodically emitting the first Bluetooth transmission signal;

a processor that executes the computer codes; and

a computer-readable medium that stores the computer codes.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) The first device as recited in claim 26 further including:

a display screen; and

computer code for causing the display screen to display information associated with the second device when it is determined that the first Bluetooth transmission signal is not received.

29. (Currently Amended) A handheld security system, comprising:

a WiFi-enabled control unit having a range of communications; and

a WiFi-enabled device, wherein the device is registered with the control unit such that the device cooperates with the control unit using WiFi communications to determine when the device is within the range of communications of the control unit, wherein when it is determined that the device is within the range of communications of the control unit, the device is functional, and when it is determined that the device is not within the range of communications of the control unit, the device is substantially at least partially non-functional;

wherein the device is configured to periodically send an identifying signal to the control unit and the control unit is configured to send a return signal to the device when the identifying signal is received by the control unit;

wherein when the device is at least partially non-functional, the device is configured to continue periodically sending the identifying signal to the control unit.

30. (Cancelled)

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31. (Currently Amended) The handheld security system according to claim ~~30~~29 wherein the device includes a lockout interface, wherein when the device does not receive the return signal in response to the identifying signal, the device is not within the range of communications of the control unit and the lockout interface locks out the device and causes the device to be ~~substantially~~ at least partially non-functional.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) The handheld security system according to claim ~~32~~1 wherein when the device receives the return signal, the lockout interface unlocks the device and causes the device to be functional.

34. (New) The handheld security system according to claim 1 wherein the device includes a display, the display being configured to display a message that warns that the device is at least one of lost and stolen, when the device is at least partially non-functional.

35. (New) The handheld security system according to claim 1 wherein the device includes a display, the display being configured to display contact information that is capable of being used by someone who locates the device to identify an owner of the device, when the device is at least partially non-functional.

36. (New) The handheld security system according to claim 1 wherein the device is configured to periodically send the identifying signal utilizing a period of at least one hour for accommodating an owner who rarely leaves a particular area.

37. (New) The handheld security system according to claim 1 wherein the device is configured to periodically send the identifying signal utilizing a period of less than 15 minutes for accommodating an owner who travels frequently.

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38. (New) The handheld security system according to claim 1 wherein the device is configured to periodically send the identifying signal as long as the device has access to power.